EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GRADUATES

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to determine the employment status of the Information Technology graduates from AY 2006-2012. A total of 37 Information Technology graduates were reached out. Descriptive research design was used. Results showed that Information Technology graduates came from the family with a big household size and the majority did not continue their studies after graduation. Their annual family income was less than 50,000.00. The occupations of their father were classified under laborer, unskilled worker and private household with employed persons. Most of the Information Technology graduates were employed. Their salaries range from 5,000.00 to less than 10,000.00 a month. The program and their self-effectiveness are very effective. They were very satisfied with the knowledge and skills acquired from the course.

KEYWORDS: employment status, information technology, Guimaras State College

INTRODUCTION

Background of the study

Guimaras State College (GSC) started as a Vocational High School in 1968. She catered to the vocational education needs of the secondary students of the municipality. In 1980, the school was granted a permit to offer post-secondary courses. The two-year Trade Technical Courses paved the way to higher education which are ladderized, and considered technical courses.

The road towards providing quality education to the people of Guimaras did not end there. In 1995, Former President Fidel V. Ramos signed into law RA 7944, paving the way for the conversion of Buenavista Vocational School into a Polytechnic Tertiary School under the name, Guimaras Polytechnic College. Finally, on June 8, 2001, RA 9138 was signed into law by Former President Gloria Macapagal - Arroyo, creating Guimaras State College.

In 2002, Western Visayas College of Science and Technology - Guimaras Extension at Alaguisoc, Jordan, Guimaras (Mosqueda Campus) was turned over to Guimaras State College; therefore she became an extension campus. On the same year, four-year degree courses were offered in the said campus.

From her humble beginning, GSC has merged to become the only institution of higher learning in the province. As such, she has been entrusted with the responsibility of providing highly trained personnel as required by government and non-government institutions, as well as the industry.

It was noted that the performance of an educational institution's performance is partly measured by the employability of its graduates. In this connection, several tracer studies were conducted. The study of Negus Kebedum (2010) on Tracer Study of the Sheba University College Graduates and another tracer study conducted by Zembere and Chinyama (1996) revealed that graduates and employers assured that the knowledge and skill gained were applicable except in financed fields. Hilario (1999) found that the professional factors namely you graduated, and civil service eligibility had no significant relationship with occupational status of underemployed graduates. Major filed of specialization and post-graduate were found to be significantly related with occupational status. Parreño and Umani (2004) found out that the percentage of employed graduates is high, and most of them worked in private offices. In summary, result of the studies revealed that the skills which were acquired by the graduates from their colleges, had relevance in their present jobs.

Hence, there is a great need to determine the employment status of the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology graduates that the Guimaras State College had produced in relation to the training they acquired for the last 7 years. This study would prove to be a good guide in structuring the curriculum to prepare the soon to be graduates and enable them to meet the challenges of professional life.

Statement of the problem

This study was conducted to determine the employment status of the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology graduates from AY 2006-2012.

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Specifically, this study sought answers to the following questions:

1. What is the profile of the Information Technology graduates in terms of:
    a. Sex
    b. Civil status
    c. Parents' occupation
    d. Family's annual Income
    e. Household size
2. What is the educational profile of the graduates in terms of:
    a. highest educational attainment
    b. Knowledge and skills acquired from courses/degree Program
    c. Effectiveness of the study program and self- readiness
3. What is the employment status of the respondents in terms of:
    a. No. of graduates who were employed/unemployed
    b. Reasons for being unemployed
    c. Present occupation
    d. status in their present occupation
    e. monthly salary

METHODOLOGY

The descriptive method of research was used in this study to determine the employment status of the graduates of GSC from AY 2008-2009 up to 2011-2012. The respondents of this study were the Information Technology graduates of Guimaras State College - Main Campus from SY 2008 - 2012. The list of the respondents was taken from the records from the Registrar's Office. Slovin Formula, Systematic sampling with a random start and Stratified random sampling were the sampling techniques used in the conduct of this study. The data needed in the study were gathered using a researcher prepared questionnaire. The questionnaire is composed of 3 parts. Part 1 includes items on personal information of the respondents such as age, sex and marital status. Part 2 consists of the educational background of the respondents. Part 3 focuses on the employment data and status of employment. The instrument used in this study was the standardized one formulated by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). Since this is already a standardized instrument, no validation and reliability testing were done.

The questionnaires were distributed to the respondents. The addresses of the graduates were taken from the records of the school. Upon identification of the respondents, they were grouped per Municipality and Barangay for the easy conduct of the study. The questionnaires for graduates from the farthest barangay of the Province were distributed first for easy management of time during the conduct of the actual study. The social media network was used for those who cannot be reached personally but have media account such as facebook, twitter, e-mail address, skype and other sources.

The data were collected, sorted and tabulated based on the requirement of the study. The data gathered were analyzed by getting the frequency, percentages and ranking.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Profile of the respondents

The personal data shows that in terms of sex, majority of the respondents are female, 24 (64.9%) and only 13 (35.1%) are male. This implies that females have a greater preference to enroll in the Bachelor of Information Technology than males.

As to marital status, majority of them were single with 30 (81.1%), and only 7 (18.9%) were already married. This implies that most of the respondents didn't have their own family yet.

The father's occupations of the GSC Information Technology graduates vary. Most of them were laborer, unskilled worker with 12 (32.4%), followed by Farmer, Forestry Worker, Fisherman 9 (24.3%), and Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities 8 (21.6%).

In terms of mother's occupation, most were Private Household with Employed Persons (22 or 77%), laborer and unskilled worker 5 (13.5%),; 3 (8.1%) of the respondents did not indicate their responses. This implies that the parents of the graduates are very supportive when it comes to the studies of their children since their type of work speaks of their income.

Table 1. Profile of the respondents in terms of gender, civil status and age

Categories	f	%
Sex		
Male	13	35.1
Female	24	64.9
Total	37	100.0
Civil Status		
Single	30	81.1
Married	7	18.9
Total	37	100.0
Father's Occupation		
Military, Police force	2	5.4
Technical, Associate Professional	1	2.7
Farmer, Forestry Worker, Fisherman	9	24.3
Laborer, Unskilled Worker	12	32.4
Private Household with Employed Persons	3	8.1
Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	8	21.6
No Response	2	5.4
Total	37	100.0
Mother's Occupation		
Official of Government and Special-Interest Organization	1	2.7
Technical, Associate Professional	1	2.7
Sales Worker	1	2.7
Farmer, Forestry Worker, Fisherman	2	5.4
Laborer, Unskilled Worker	5	13.5
Health and Social Work	1	2.7
Private Household with Employed Persons	22	77.0
Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	1	2.7
No Response	3	8.1
Total	37	100.0

Average annual family income and household size

Table 2 indicates the average annual family income of the respondents. 27 or 73% of the respondents had an average annual income of less than 50,000.00; 3 or 8.1% had 50,001-100,000; 1 or 2.7% had 100,001 - 150,000; 1 or 2.7% had 150,001 - 200,000 and 200,001-250,000; while 3 or 8.1% of the respondents had not answered the question on the average annual income. This implies that families didn't have their permanent source of livelihood or if ever they had, they earn a little for the type of their occupation.

When it comes to the respondents' family household size, 14 or 37.8% answered that they have a household size of more than 5 members; 9 or 24.3% has a household size composed of 5 members; 7 or 18.9% has 3 members, 4 or 10.8% has 4 members, 1 or 2.7% has 2 members. This simply shows that the belief of the Filipinos which is "more hands, more work to finish" still exists.

Table 2. Profile of the respondents in terms of average annual family income

Average annual family income	f	%
Less than 50,000	27	73
50,001 - 100,000	3	8.1
100,001 - 150,000	1	2.7
150,001 - 200,000	1	2.7
200,001 - 250,000	1	2.7
More than 250,000	1	2.7
No Response	3	8.1
Total	37	100.0
Household Size		
1	2	5.4
2	1	2.7
3	7	18.9
4	4	10.8
5	9	24.3
More than 5	14	37.8
Total	37	100.0

Educational profile

As to educational attainment of the Information Technology graduates, majority (19 or 51.4%) of the respondents graduated their course; 16 or 43.2% got their Masters and 2 or 5.4% of them did not indicate their responses. This implies that taking further studies is not important for them to land a job.

Table 3. Highest Educational Attainment

Highest Educational Attainment	f	%
Graduate Diploma or Certificate	19	51.4
Masters	16	43.2
No response	2	5.4
Total	37	100.0

Knowledge and skills acquired from courses/degree program

Data on knowledge and skill acquired from courses/degree program shows an overall mean of 5.22 interpreted as "very satisfied". Looking into the individual item, specialized knowledge in IT Education M=4.30, Proficiency in written English M=4.62, Interpersonal communication skills M=4.70, Problem solving skills M=4.73 were interpreted as "moderately satisfied". Proficiency in spoken Filipino M=4.95, Creative and critical thinking skills M=4.76, Analytical skills M=4.81, IT skills (Use of Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Adobe, AutoCAD, etc.) M=5.14, Team work/working with others in a group M=5.17, Exposure to general knowledge and current issues M=4.86, all were interpreted as "very satisfied". This implies that effective instructors and professors during their college years since they learned a lot from their course and their skills were honed.

Table 4. Knowledge and skills acquired from courses/degree program

	Mean	SD	Interpretation
a. Specialized knowledge in IT Education	4.30	.777	MS
b. IT skills (Use of Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Adobe, AutoCAD, etc.)	5.14	.855	VS
c. Proficiency in written English	4.62	.721	MS
d. Proficiency in spoken English	4.51	1.017	MS
e. Proficiency in written Filipino	4.97	.799	VS
f. Proficiency in spoken Filipino	4.95	.743	VS
g. Interpersonal communication skills	4.70	.661	MS
h. Creative and critical thinking skills	4.76	.723	VS
i. Analytical skills	4.81	.66	VS
j. Problem solving skills	4.73	.838	MS
k. Team work/working with others in a group	5.17	.878	VS
m. Exposure to general knowledge and current issues	4.86	.822	VS
Total	5.22	.628	VS

Scale: 1 - 2.24 - Not satisfied, 2.25 - 3.49 slightly satisfied, 3.50 - 4.74 - moderately satisfied, 4.75 - 6.00 - very satisfied

Effectiveness of the study program and self-readiness

The graduates rated "very effective", M=4.84 on the effectiveness of the study program and self-readiness. Looking into the individual items, the graduate rated moderately effective on the items: "Specialized knowledge in ICT", M=4.54, "Proficiency in written English", M=4.62, "Proficiency in spoken English", M=4.70, "Analytical skills", M=4.68, "Problem solving skills", M=4.65.

The graduates rated "very effective" on the items: "Speaking, writing and skills", M= 5.19, "Proficiency in written Filipino", M=4.92 "Proficiency in spoken Filipino", M=5.00, "Creative and critical thinking skills" M=4.78, "Team work/working with others in a group", M=5.24. This implies that the graduates found the study program very effective that would prepare them in facing challenges in relation to what they have acquired.

Table 5. Effectiveness of the study program and self-readiness

Categories	Mean	SD	Interpretation
n. Specialized knowledge in ICT	4.54	.767	ME
o. Speaking, writing and skills	5.19	.66	VE
p. Proficiency in written English	4.62	.758	ME
q. Proficiency in spoken English	4.7	.777	ME
r. Proficiency in written Filipino	4.92	.722	VE
s. Proficiency in spoken Filipino	5.00	.707	VE
t. Interpersonal communication skills	4.92	.759	VE
u. Creative and critical thinking skills	4.78	.712	VE
v. Analytical skills	4.68	.747	ME
w. Problem solving skills	4.65	.716	ME
x. Team work/working with others in a group	5.24	.723	VE
Total	4.84	.550	VE

Scale: 1 - 2.24 - Not satisfied, 2.25 - 3.49 slightly satisfied, 3.50 - 4.74 - moderately satisfied, 4.75 - 6.00 - very satisfied

Number of graduates who were employed/unemployed

Data on the employment status of the graduates shows that most of them were already employed with 26 (70.3%). Only 5 (13.5%) were unemployed, and 6 (16.2%) of them did not respond for their employment status. This implies that most of the graduates already have their job.

Table 6. Number of graduates who were employed/ unemployed

Employment status	f	%
Employed	26	70.3
Not employed	5	13.5
No Response	6	16.2
Total	37	100.0

Reasons for unemployment

Table 7 presents the reasons for unemployment of those who were not employed. Data showed that, the major reasons were: Family responsibility (3 or 20%), Job offered was not suitable (3 or 20%) and there is no job opportunity for them (3 or 20%). This was followed by the reason that they lack self-confidence to face the working world (2 or 13.3%) and, they lack work experience (2 or 13.3%). This shows that some of the graduates really wanted to have a job, yet there are some factors which hinder them.

Table 7. Reasons for unemployment*

Reason for unemployment	f	%
Further studies	1	6.7
Family Responsibility	3	20.0
Job offered was not suitable	3	20.0
Lack of self-confidence to face the working world	2	13.3
Lack of work experience	2	13.3
No Job Opportunity	3	20.0
Not interested to work	1	6.7

Multiple response*

Present occupation

Table 8 presents the occupation of the respondents. Of the 26 employed Information Technology graduates, the majority of them (12 or 46.2%) was working as a clerk. Five (19.2%) were those who were working in hardware servicing and programming, 2 (7.7%) work as Technical; Associate Professional and another 2 (7.7%) as service worker in a shop. One (3.8%) of the respondents works as a supervisor in his job. This implies that computer literate individuals are highly needed since various offices make use of technology. Information Technology graduates suit to that kind of work.

Table 8. Present occupation

Present occupation	f	%
Supervisor	1	3.8
Technical, Associate Professional	2	7.7
Clerk	12	46.2
Education	1	3.8
Service worker in shop	2	7.7
Sales worker	1	3.8
Laborer, Unskilled worker	1	3.8
Private Household with employed persons	1	3.8
Skilled in hardware servicing, programming etc.	5	19.2
Total	26	100

Status of employment

Data in Table 9 presents the employment status of the respondents. Results showed that 9 (34.6%) of the respondents work as casual in their present job. Eight or 30.6% were regular or permanently employed, 6 (23.1%) work on a contractual basis. Only one (1) of the respondents was self-employed. This implies that Information Technology graduates really tried to look for a job after/years after graduation.

Table 9. Status of employment

Status of employment	f	%
Regular/permanent	8	30.6
Temporary	2	7.7
Casual	9	34.6
Contractual	6	23.1
Self-employed	1	3.8
Total	26	100.0

Monthly salary

As to monthly salary, it was found out that the majority of the employed graduates earned ₱5,000.00 to less than ₱10,000.00 with 12 (46.2%); Below ₱5,000.00, 10 (38.5%); ₱10,000.00 to less than ₱15,000.00 2 (7.7%). This indicates that monthly income of the employed Information Technology graduates fell below the poverty level. Their compensation depends on the type of their job.

Table 10. Monthly salary

	f	%
Below ₱5,000.00	10	38.5
₱5,000.00 to less than 10,000.00	12	46.2
₱10,000.00 to less than 15,000.00	2	7.7
₱15,000.00 to less than 20,000.00	1	3.8
No response	1	3.8
Total	26	100.0

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of the study, the following conclusions were advanced:

1. Majority of the traced graduates were female and single. Their fathers' occupations were grouped under laborer and unskilled worker. Most of the mothers were household employees. Majority of the annual family income were less than ₱50,000.00. Household size is more than 5 members of the family.
2. Majority of the Information Technology graduates did not pursue their higher degree. The program and their self-effectiveness are very effective. They were very satisfied with the knowledge and skills acquired from the course.
3. Majority of the traced Information Technology were casual employees. Their common occupation was clerk office. Their salaries range from ₱5,000.00 to less than ₱10,000.00 a month.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusions, the following recommendations were advanced:

1. There should be a seminar or forum on family planning for the farmers, forestry and fishermen with the big household size. The government should provide training for the livelihood program for the community especially those on rural areas.
2. The parents should educate the value of education. The government should provide scholarship pro grams for the poor but deserving students.
3. The graduates should have values for work in which they must have love and have an interest for them to have a good background and nature of work.

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